Secta. II.-97—100,000—43-5-43.

Rev. (1938 48) Department.

45 SERIES

G.O. No. 747

Dated 1--4-48

[Despatch Abstract.]

Irrigation - Minor - Expansion Measures - Orders passed

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Revenue Department
G.O.Ms.No.747, dated 1st April 1948.

***

ABSTRACT

Irrigation - Minor - Expansion Measures - Orders passed -

READ:- To the Board of Revenue, O.M.No.9896 E/48-1, dated the 19th February 1948.
From the Board of Revenue B.P.Rt.No.1151, dated the 28th February 1948.

O R D E R:

At the meeting held in the Hon'ble the Land Revenue Minister's room at the Secretariat on 9th February 1948, which was attended by the Commissioner of Land Revenue, Excise and Prohibition, and other offices it was considered that Ramnad District and also Chittoor were particularly badly affected by the failure of the North-East Monsoon and that a large number of tanks requiring repairs etc., would be found in zamindari areas and that definite plans should be drawn up for the repair of these tanks. The point was also considered whether the repairs to tanks in zamindari areas could be carried out under the Famine code from famine Funds.

2. The Board of Revenue suggested that the Government should serve formal notices under the Madras Irrigation Works (Repairs, Improvement and construction) Act, 1943 on Zamindars and make all arrangements to execute the repairs at Government cost as soon as the time prescribed in the notices expired and that the amount spent could be recovered in whole or inpart when paying compension to the zamindars at the time of taking over the Estates. The Board has stated that the expenditure on these repairs could be debited to departmental heads instead of 'Famine Relief' as the seasonal conditions are not so Bad as to warrant 'declaration of famine'.

3. The main diffculty in executing the works is the dearth of experienced technical staff. With a view to overcome the present shortage of qualified men for recruitment, the following proposals are under the consideration of Government:-

(1) Re-employment of retired men of the minor irrigation department who are found fit and efficient; and

(2) starting a short emergency course for recruitment of staff for the minor irrigation department.

The Government are also separately considering the question of requesting the Annamalai University to revive the temporary courses for road construction and minor irrigation overseers which was started in 1945 and abolished in 1947.

4. The Government trust that if the proposals mentioned in para 3 above materialise, they will go a long way to improve the existing staff position. They consider that no useful purpose will be served by their embarking at present upon a large scheme for the repair of all derelict tanks in zamindaris if the scheme is likely to involve the employment of technical personnel on an extensive scale.

5. In the meeting referred to in para 1 above, it was also discussed that the Annamalai University would have trained about 200 candidates in the temporary course for road construction and minor irrigation overseers during 1945-46 and 1946-47 and that the services of these men should be availed of to meet the demands of the Government, in view of the shortage of staff in the minor irrigation department. The Board is requested to take the initiative in the matter, find out how many of the candidates are available for appointment in the minor irrigation department and to employ as many of those candidates as are available. A report in the

in the matter may be submitted to Government in due course.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

sx x x x xx
Secretary to Government.

To
The Board of

gs/17-12/

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To A.S.

The Hon'ble Minister for Land Revenue held on 9-2-'48 a discussion with the Secretary and the Member, Board of Revenue in charge of Irrigation on the measures to be adopted for the expansion and improvement of minor irrigation in the Province and with a view to formulate certain proposals for the budget for 1948-49. The following points were discussed at the conference:--

(1) It was considered that the ~~Rmnd~~ Ramnad District was particularly badly affected owing to the failure of the North East Monsoon. It was also realised that a large number of tanks requiring repairs, etc., would be found in Zamindari areas and that definite plans should be drawn up for the repair of these tanks. The point was also considered whether repairs to tanks in zamindari areas could be carried out under the Famine Code from famine funds;

(2) It was also considered at the Conference that definite schemes should be drawn up to spend the entire allotment of Rs.37/- and odd lakhs provided in the budget for 1948-49 under 'minor irrigation' and that in drawing up the schemes, preference should be given to areas which have very few major irrigation sources - ~~Rmnd~~ Ramnad and Anantapur in paricular. It was also proposed that Ceded districts in general as well as North Arcot and South Arcot should also be considered;

(3) It was discussed at the conference that the Annamalai University would have trained about 200 men in Road Construction and M.I.U's Course during 1945-6 and 1946-47 and that the services of these men should be availed of to meet the demands of this Government as we are at present short of qualified hands. It was suggested that the Board of Revenue should take the initiative in the matte and find out if these men are available.

2. (Item (1) in para 1 above): A report has been obtained from the Board of Revenue in the matter. The Board has observed that as the abolition of zamindaris is a question o time only and as the abolition Bill may be expected to be law and be in force within a short period, it is quite unreasonable to expect any zamindar to spend anything from his pocket to repair irrigation works. It, therefore, considered that the best thing would be for the Government to serve formal notices under the Madras Irrigation Works (Repairs, Construction and Improvements) Act, 1943 on zamindars but make all arrangements to execute repairs at Government cost as soon as the time prescribed in the notice expires and that the amount spent could be recovered in whol or in part when paying compensation to the zamindars at the time of taking over the Estates. As regards the question of carrying out repairs to tanks in zamindari areas under the Famine Code from famine funds, the Board is of the opinion that the expenditure on these repairs could be debited to Departmental heads instead of to 'Famine Relief' as the seasonal conditions are not so bad as to warrant declaration of famine.

If wholesale repairs to tanks in the zamindaris are to be undertaken, it may be difficult to get enough efficient and qualified technical staff to attend to such works. Considerable difficulty is being felt for want of qualified hands to attend even to the normal work in the minor irrigation department. Some posts of Minor irrigation Supervisors and Minor Irrigation Overseers have been sanctioned for Firka Development work. Hon'ble Premier has ordered that one Minor Irrigation Overseer should be spared from each Dt. for firka development work. With a view to overcome the dearth of minor irrigation staff, the

P.T.O.

following proposals are under the active consideration of the Government:-

(1) Re-employment of retired men of the minor irrigation department who are found fit and efficient, and

(2) Starting of a short emergency course for recruitment of staff to the minor irrigation department. E & PH. are also being requested separately to consider the question of asking the Annamalai University to revive the temporary course for road construction and minor irrigation overseers which was started in 1945 and abolished in 1947. If it is decided to re-employ retired men and to start an emergency short-term course to train men, to be appointed in the minor irrigation department, it may be possible to take up the execution of minor irrigation works in the zamindari areas also. It is therefore proposed to inform the Board of Revenue that Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by the Government embarking at present upon a large scheme for the repair of all derelict tanks in zamindaris if the scheme is likely to involve the employment of technical personnel on an extensive scale.

3. ITEM (2) in para 1 ABBVE:- The matter is already separately under consideration. The Board of Revenue has been asked to state what steps it proposes to take to see that the entire amount of Rs.37 lakhs provided in the budget for 1948-49 under minor irrigation(since voted by the Legislature also) is spent during the course of the year, 1948-49. The Board has addressed the Collectors of the districts by D.O. in the matter. A copy of that D.O. is put up at (B). It will be seen from para 2 of the D.O. that the Board has already instructed the Collectors that minor irrigation works in the Ceded Districts, Ramnad, North Arcot and South Arcot should deserve special attention. The Board has also asked the Collectors of all districts to prepare in advance a well considered programme of expenditure during the ensuing year and to furnish not later than 1-3-1948 their revised requirements for that year. The Board has also asked the Collectors to examine the question whether the existing minor irrigation staff in their districts is adequate or whether more staff is necessary for executing the works they propose to take up in 1948-49 according to the programme to be prepared by them and that if they considered any additional staff essential, detailed proposals might be submitted very urgently so that the works might be taken on hand immediately. The Board's report to the Government is awaited till 1-4-1948. The question will be pursued further on receipt of the Board's report. No separate action is, it is submitted, called for on this point in this file.

4. ITEM (3) IN PARA 1 ABOVE:- The students of the Annamalai University who have undergone the two years' special course there successfully have been ordered to be given preference over other qualified persons for appointment as M.I.Os. and clerk draftsmen. As suggested at the conference, it is proposed to ask the Board of Revenue to take initiative in the matter, find out how many of these candidates are available. It is also proposed to ask the Board to employ as many of these men as are available.

5. The draft order below is in accordance with the notes pe in paras 2 and 4 above. P.W.D., E. & P.H. and Finance have accepted the draft order. For orders whether it may now issue.

(Sd.) xxx
(Sd.) xx H.M.(L.R.)

/True Copy/

gs/17-12/

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Madras Record Office.